



Photographer Michelle Hauser is a treasure hunter. Her treasures are hiding in plain sight. Michelle hunts down the often-forgotten spaces in the backdrop of rural Maine. Using newspaper clippings and tips from locals, her aim is to help us remember and appreciate our civic architecture.

Maine's Grange halls and meeting houses were built primarily by volunteer societies and served as community gathering places, town meeting sites, entertainment venues, and the hosts of community suppers. Many of these buildings still have pristine exteriors and a good number of them continue to operate as spaces that bring people together.

Michelle found her inspiration in the Mount Vernon Odd Fellows Hall. She'd attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture on a full scholarship, stayed in Maine, and built her first studio space in the hall. It's also where she met her late husband, Andrew S. Flamm (1967-2018). They opened Odd Fellows Art and Antiques that specialized in the material culture of American fraternal organizations. Together they began a multi-year photographic project called ["Meeting Hall Maine."](#)

Stops along the way to study at the Art Institute of Chicago, Haystack, and Maine Media Workshops, along with many residencies, including Monhegan

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and Hewnoaks and many other places outside of the state, did not stop her passion for Maine's hidden treasures.

Michelle now travels extensively through the state's sixteen counties documenting hundreds of meeting halls. She returns to these places to find just the right lighting conditions to photograph a hall unobstructed by cars or foliage. (Selections from her Meeting Hall Maine series are currently [on exhibit at the Maine State House](#) in Augusta through April 30. Don't miss it!)

She finds her own fraternity in the stories of those who once occupied the halls. "Many of the issues that we are grappling with today are the same struggles that these groups collectively tackled to overcome," said Michelle. "And there is hope for this continued form of social interaction."

Maine Grange director of communications, Walter Boomsma agrees that hope exists. There are currently as many as 180 active lodges in Maine with 8,000 members. Among them are the young vibrant farmers who have repopulated Blue Hill's Halcyon Grange No. 345.

The opportunity to exhibit "Meeting Hall Maine" in the State Capital coincides with Pembroke activist Severine von Tscharnier Flemming's group Greenhorns, and their pilot initiative to save and restore civic architecture in Washington and Hancock Counties. The Greenhorns are partnering with Maine Preservation to create a model of advocacy and fundraising that can be used throughout to state.

Thanks to Michelle's treasure hunting, a new life may emerge for many of Maine's unique network of 19th and early 20th century community buildings.

-Ryan Leighton
Communications Director
Maine Arts Commission



Somerset Grange, Patrons of
Husbandry no 18, Norridgewock,
Maine - Michelle Hauser



Mariners Lodge no 53, Independent
Order of Odd Fellows, Bristol, Maine -
Michelle Hauser



Former Arlington Grange no 528.,
Whitefield, Maine - Michelle Hauser



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GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

Springboard + Artist Project Grants - Apply Now

The Maine Arts Commission offers two additional grants for individual artists: **SPRINGBOARD ARTIST GRANT**, and the **ARTIST PROJECT GRANT**.

SPRINGBOARD ARTIST GRANT: helps individual artists who are new to the grant writing process and have not been funded through the Maine Arts Commission previously. This grant funds Maine artists to create new or existing work, enhance their artistic skills and abilities, participate in opportunities that will benefit the artists' career, and improve their ability to share their work with the public.

Deadline: March 20, 2023

Grant Award: \$1,500

ARTIST PROJECT GRANT: supports individual Maine artists in various stages of their career. This includes the creation of new or existing work, activities that enhance an artist's skills or process, participation in programs to raise the level and quality of their work, and supporting ways to bring their art to the public. Projects can be in any artistic discipline and on any scale.

Deadline: March 20, 2023

Grant Award: \$2,500

Our staff is here to make sure you have all the tools and resources available for successful grant writing. Please contact the Maine Arts Commission (207-287-2724) for any questions or needed assistance, or [Contact Us Online](#)

Organization Project Grant



Credit: Dramatic Repertory Company, Portland

The Organization Project Grant is now open. This grant supports the production of creative activities, the creation of new work, and the continuation of existing arts programs by organizations. Cultural organizations, K- 12 schools, municipalities, tribal entities and non-art 501(c)(3) organizations may apply. Projects can be in any artistic discipline and on any scale.

Application Deadline: April 13, 2023

Grant Award: \$5,000

*Grant Reviewers wanted. Sign up here>

Serving as a grant panelist is a means of making a valuable contribution to the arts in Maine. All of the Maine Arts Commission grant applications are reviewed individually by citizen panelists who then meet as a group in a recorded public panel meeting. At this convening, panelists discuss applications and finalize their individual scores for a specified group of applicants.

2023 CULTURAL
HERITAGE
WEEK IN
MAINE

MARCH 15 -22
CULTURE MOVES
US FORWARD

Join us for Cultural Advocacy Day
at the State House in Augusta:

workshops, networking,
art-making, and making the
case for supporting culture!

March 22, 1-4pm

*Presented by the
Cultural Alliance
of Maine*

register at
culturalmaine.org/join

STATE OF MAINE FIRST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE ART EXHIBITION

Come one, come all for the first State of Maine
Employee Art Exhibition at the State Capitol
Complex in Augusta.

The show is designed to give artists at all skill levels a
unique opportunity to exhibit their creative work
and compete for CASH PRIZES. Maine employees
(and their families) are invited to submit artwork to
be considered for this exciting new exhibit.

Don't miss this chance to be recognized for your
creativity!

Sponsored by the National Arts Program in support



Call
for
Art

nationalartsprogram.org

and cooperation with the Maine Arts Commission, this exhibit is judged by professionals and is free to all. Selected works will be on display in the Burton M. Cross Office Building (second floor), and at the Maine Arts Commission building from July 5 – October 31.

Deadline to apply: May 15, 2023

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



TONIGHT

To participate in Poetry Out Loud is an experience that broadens ideas, bolsters confidence and provides a wonderful sense of accomplishment. This is the first year since 2019 that Maine Poetry Out Loud competitions are held in person. After two inspiring regional recitation events, ten finalists are moving on to the state finals on **Thursday, March 2, at 6 p.m.** at the Olin Arts Center in Lewiston.

Tune in to the LIVE STREAM on the Maine Arts Commission Facebook Page.

The event will be hosted by Portland Poet Laureate, Maya Williams and 2018 Maine POL champ, Allan Monga Jr. There will also be a keynote speech from Maine Poet Laureate, Julia Bouwsma. Performer, Janoah Bailin will provide creative, energetic entertainment between rounds of recitation.



The Northern Finalists- Abigail Case
- Hermon High School, Innana Piccininni - Bangor High School, Alice Willette - Waterville Senior High School, John Punnachalil - Oceanside High School, and Mackenzie Chaput - Gardiner Area High School



The Southern Finalists -Willow Knowles - Kennebunk High School, Marcus Gallagher - Oak Hill High School, Charlotte Schatz - Maine Coast Waldorf School, Lyra Legawiec - Mt. Ararat High School, and Jaime Bueya-Mbiyavanga - Portland High School.



ACTION ALERT



Homeland Security proposes 250% increase to artist visas

Share your story for a sector-wide letter to Maine's delegation:
culturalmaine.org/dhs-artist-fees

The Maine Arts Commission is working with the [Cultural Alliance of Maine](#) on a joint statement to our federal delegation in opposition to a proposal from the Department of Homeland Security that would pose a significant financial burden on a sector still very much in recovery from the COVID pandemic. The comment period is open until March 6, 2023. How will the proposed fee increase to artist visa applications affect you, your organization, and/or your community? Please share your story with us.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

Seeking diverse + dynamic
arts programming from
artists + creatives
collaboratives
arts organizations

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



DEADLINE

APRIL 14, 2023

Waterville Creates is inviting proposals from individuals, groups, and/or organizations for community-centered arts programming to be held at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center in Downtown Waterville between June 1, 2023 and May 30, 2024. Proposals may be submitted by individual artists, artist collaboratives, and/or arts organizations. This call is open to local, regional, and national applicants; however, priority will be given to Maine-based artists.

The deadline for submission is April 14, 2023.

Maximum project award: \$10,000.

[Learn more HERE >](#)



**SENATOR
ANGUS S. KING, JR.**



PRESS RELEASE

Senator Angus King announced the opening of his Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally-Directed Spending (CDS) online portal that allows Maine municipalities and nonprofits to apply for consideration to receive direct federal funding for eligible projects that have significant and measurable benefits across the state.

The current deadline for CDS submissions is 5:00pm, Friday, March 17, 2023.

[Learn more HERE>](#)

Maine Association of Nonprofits - Transition Toolkits

One of the many resources MANP offers its members is [Executive Transition + Succession Planning](#). MANP is committed to supporting mission-driven "leadershifts." Succession planning is not just about what to do when your executive director leaves. At its core, it is a strategy for keeping mission in the forefront as your organization navigates inevitable change. It is a process to identify organizational values and develop practices that safeguard the important work of your organization.

Learn more about the discounted membership options for arts aligned nonprofits, and how the Maine Association of Nonprofit's resources, services, and programs can support your work.



CreativeGround Profile Spotlight

Hildaland



Orkney (Scotland) born fiddler Louise Bichan and mandolinist Ethan Setiawan present a collaboration and meeting of their musical worlds in Hildaland. A path steeped in the fiddle traditions of their respective sides of the Atlantic, the journey taken wends through Scottish, oldtime, and Swedish inspired music intertwined with contemporary compositions.

[Visit Hildaland's CreativeGround Profile](#)

Do you have a CreativeGround profile? Use this robust directory to promote your work inside and beyond Vermont; your listing can include images, sound or video clips, links to other pages, and references. [Create your free listing today](#), and check these [tips and tricks for creating a strong profile](#).



[Carnival Maine - Fire + Ice](#) [March 8 - 12, 2023 - Portland](#)

The 3rd annual Carnival ME celebrates Maine as a State for All Seasons in the heart of Portland's Old Port at a new waterfront location on Commercial Street

An enhanced focus on kid's activities thanks to partnerships with **Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine**, **Sub Zero Ice Carvings**, and **Maine Academy of Modern Music**.

[Maine Arts News & Opportunities](#)

- [Maine Alliance for Arts Education Welcomes Dana Legawiec as New Director](#)
- [Indigo Arts Alliance Seeks Marketing & Communications Coordinator](#)
- [Hometown Grants, \\$50,000 in project funding to small towns](#)
- [Portland-based Pihcintu chorus receives national award](#)
- [LA Arts Unveils Its New Arts Center in Downtown Lewiston](#)
- [CMCA's Mia Bogyo awarded with 2023 Excellence in Art Advocacy by MAEA](#)
- [Ogunquit Playhouse Announces New Managing Director- Deborah Warren](#)
- [More People Trust Museums Now Than Before the Pandemic - Report](#)
- [Young Vocalists Online Competition, open to ages 13-18](#)
- [Call for Art Reflecting Wabanaki culture, USM, Apply by March 6](#)
- [NH Charitable Foundation's Piscataqua Artist Advancement Grant](#)

- [Theater Residency Program, Deadline March 10, The Olive Street Project](#)
 - [Apply For Official Showcase at Western Arts Alliance 2023 Conference](#)
 - [Call For Submissions to Résonance - Online Franco American Literary Arts Journal](#)
 - [Maine Ski & Snowboard Museum Seeking Executive Director](#)
 - [Registration Now Open for 2023 Maine Philanthropy Conference](#)
 - [Call to Artists - Yellow Exhibit, Munka Studio, Lewiston](#)
 - [SEAR: Searsport EcoArt Residency, Call for Applications](#)
 - [Rauschenberg Medical Emergency Grants Cycle 17 is open through March 17](#)
 - [Strategies for Rural Prosperity and a Podcast](#)
 - [Federal programs provide millions for rural internet access](#)
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Events & Additional Opportunities

- [Maine Poetry Out Loud State Championships, March 2, Lewiston](#)
 - [UMF brings “Frankenstein” to life at Alumni Theater, March 2-5](#)
 - ["3" pop-up contemporary art exhibit, Frank Brockman Gallery, Brunswick, March 2 - April 2](#)
 - [Clifford Cameron's Vinyl Quartet at the Dance Hall, Kittery, March 3](#)
 - [Bodies of Work, a figurative exhibition, March 3- 30, Portland](#)
 - [Into The Woods, Russell Hall USM, Gorham, March 3 - 10](#)
 - [Visiting Artist Series: Andrius Žlabys Piano Master Class, Gorham, March 4](#)
 - [Atlohkewi: Tell Me a Story - Virtual Discussion Series, Bangor Public Library, March 8](#)
 - [The Blue Café: Mavy Ho-Le, Camden Opera House, March 10](#)
 - [2023 Maine Drama Festival, March 10-11, 24-25](#)
 - [Remembrance & Hope Concert Dedicated to Victims of COVID-19, Riverfront-Franco Center, March 12](#)
 - [Poetry Rocks Happy Hour, 40 Paper - Camden, March 16](#)
 - [Robert Lehmann, Violin and Thomas Parchman, Clarinet, “Concerted Contrasts”, Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham, March 24](#)
 - [Bach Birthday Bash, Merrill Auditorium, Portland, March 25](#)
 - [Portland Chamber Music Festival: Borromeo String Quartet, March 25](#)
 - [Augusta Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert, South Paris, March 26](#)
 - [Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta, March 27](#)
 - [Death Wings Project, Theater Project, Brunswick, March 30 - April 8](#)
 - [Artist Talk with Michael Kolster, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, Portland, March 31](#)
 - [New England Arts Opportunities & National Opportunities](#)
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